

SITUATION REPORT NO. 6

INCIDENT NO. 2000-016

DATE: June 14, 2000 TIME: 10:30 a.m.

TO: Governor Edward T. Schafer
State Capitol
Bismarck, N.D. 58505

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: Flooding -- A series of thunderstorms since June 12, with heavy rainfall in excess of 20 inches in some areas, caused flooding in northeast North Dakota. High water tables, resulting from seven years of consecutive flooding, continue to cause safety- and health-related problems in some areas of north central, south central and southeast North Dakota. Flooding conditions continue in the Devils Lake area. Devils Lake remains near its historic high level as thousands of acres remain inundated while transportation routes, other infrastructure and communities, as well as rural areas, are threatened. Meanwhile dry conditions that impacted spring planting and that have resulted in grass fires in many areas of North Dakota have improved.
2. DEATHS AND INJURIES: Grand Forks County officials have attributed the death of a 25-year-old Larimore man to flood conditions. The man was killed when his vehicle fell 30 feet into a washed out section of a gravel road near Kolding Dam. A passenger in the vehicle has not been located.
3. DAMAGES: Radar estimates by the National Weather Service (NWS) indicate that up to 20.5 inches of rainfall has fallen over the past three days so far seven miles northwest of Larimore in Grand Forks County. Rainfall was continuing in the Red River Valley this morning with moderate rain falling in a line from Hallock, Minn., Grand Forks, Hillsboro to central Cass County. Light rain was falling on the western edge of the storm in a line from Walhalla down to the Niagara/McCanna area to east of Jamestown in Ellendale. Forecasters expect rainfall to end in the western Grand Forks County by noon. Dry conditions are forecasted for tonight and Thursday with a chance of rain moving into the area Thursday night and Friday.

The NWS anticipates that an urban and small stream flood advisory will be issued for an area bounded by Pembina, New Rockford and Hillsboro and their counties. A flood warning will be reissued later this morning for the Turtle River, from Arvilla to Manvel. Warnings were issued last night for the Turtle River and for the Forest River into Minto.

During the past 48 hours, rainfall of six inches or more fell in an area from Bowesmont to Park River, and from Manvel, Inkster, Michigan, New Rockford over to Aneta, up to Larimore and Manvel. Rainfall in excess of 10 inches was recorded four miles northeast of Grafton.

The Grand Forks Office of the NWS at 7 a.m. this morning recorded 24-hour readings for the following stations: Cando, 0.89 inches; Larimore, 2 inches; Sharon, 3 inches; Hannaford, 3.15 inches; Cooperstown, 2.5 inches; Warsaw, 1.4 inches; Webster, 1.3 inches; Grand Forks, 1.72 inches; Neche, 2.86 inches; Gilby, 1.7 inches; Park River, 1.28 inches; Pekin, 3 inches; seven miles north of Grafton, 1.05 inches; city of

Petersburg, 1.82 inches; Grandin, 1.9 inches; and two miles northeast of Milton, 2.1 inches.

The American Red Cross estimates that 50 homes have been affected by floodwaters in the Gilby and Mekinock areas.

In Grand Forks County, approximately 75 residents of Mekinock are involved in a flood fight effort. Flooding along the Turtle River was continuing to move east toward Manvel. The Turtle River was presently at nine feet at Manvel. Volunteers from the Grand Forks Air Force Base tried to return to Gilby this morning to help with sandbagging efforts, but were unable to reach the city because of road washouts. Water at the Larimore Dam (Dam #9) on the Turtle River has dropped four feet but continues to flow over the emergency spillway. Damage assessments are underway but cannot be completed until water recedes.

A search and rescue mission continues for a Nelson County man who was missing after the vehicle in which he was a passenger struck a road washout near Kolding Dam, seven miles west of Larimore in Grand Forks County. The death of the driver has been attributed to flood conditions.

4. RESOURCES:

LOCAL: No change from previous reports.

STATE: No change from previous reports.

FEDERAL: No change from previous reports.

5. VOLUNTEER ACTION: The American Red Cross has closed shelters in Gilby and Emerado. The Red Cross, however, is sheltering nine families in area motels.

6. MAJOR ACTIONS: The Board of Commissioners for Grand Forks and Wells Counties have issued an emergency declaration as a result of damages caused by torrential rain.

In response to the flash flooding in the northeast, North Dakota Aging Services of the N.D. Department of Human Services has dispatched outreach workers to assist with human service needs in Grafton, Gilby, Manvel and surrounding areas. Workers out of Walsh County will be providing the assistance. Expenses will be reimbursed from funds remaining in the Aging Services disaster grant.

The N.D. National Guard has provided a portable water trailer to Gilby for volunteers.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: With the exception of continuing technical support, no additional assistance has been requested.

8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: No change from previous reports.

9. OTHER: Additional reports will follow as information on damages and impacts become available.

Situation Reports published by North Dakota Emergency Management are posted on the Division's Internet home page. The address is: <http://www.state.nd.us/dem>.

Douglas C. Friez, State Director